

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-71. (canceled)

72. (currently amended) An assembly comprising a valve prosthesis and a prosthesis fixing device, comprising:

a tubular element providing a lumen therethrough and intended to lie, when the prosthesis fixing device is in ~~an inserted~~ a fixing position, with an outside in contact with a wall part of the circulatory system and to accommodate said valve prosthesis[[,]] inside the lumen of said tubular element, the tubular element having pins distributed around a periphery of the tubular element, said pins having pointed ends for penetrating the peripheral wall when the prosthesis fixing device is in the ~~inserted~~ fixing position,

wherein the pointed ends face in radially outward direction of the tubular element, and each pin is arranged on an arm which, via a bend line, is ~~attached~~ fixed by one end to the tubular element in a manner which permits swinging around said bend line, and

wherein the arms and pins are movable, by swinging about the bend line, from an insertion position, in which they are essentially located inside the lumen of the tubular element,

into [[a]] the fixing position in which at least the pins, viewed in the radial direction, project from the outside of the tubular element,

the valve prosthesis comprising a cylindrical outer body fitting in the lumen of said tubular element.

73. (currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the arms and pins are located within the longitudinal boundaries of the tubular element in the insertion position and in that the tubular element is provided with radial passages, viewed in radial direction of the tubular element, located alongside the pins and arms, such that, on swinging from the insertion position into the fixing position, the pins emerge through these passages and the arms are located within the passages.

74. (currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the arms, viewed in the longitudinal direction of the tubular element, extend essentially in said longitudinal direction.

75. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 73, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the arms extend in tangential direction of the tubular element.

76. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each arm has at least two pins.

77. (currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein in the insertion position, the arms viewed from the bend line point away from the ~~surrounding vascular tissue~~ outside of the tubular element.

78. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tubular element has a bottom and/or top flange extending in the circumferential direction of the tubular element, which flange, at least in the inserted position, projects outwards with respect to the tubular element in order to come into contact with, or at least to overlap, the bottom or, respectively, the top of surrounding vascular wall tissue.

79. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 78, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bottom or, respectively, top flange has a number of flange fingers separated from one another by incisions, cut-outs or folds and distributed around the periphery of the tubular element.

80. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to claim 79, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ends of the flange fingers each carry a said pin, and in that said fingers form said arms.

81. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tubular element is provided with a lower limit in order to prevent a prosthesis placed in the tubular element after implantation of

the prosthesis fixing device from detaching from the tubular element in the downward direction and/or with a top closure in order to prevent a prosthesis placed in the tubular element after implantation of the prosthesis fixing device from detaching from the tubular element in the upward direction.

82. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 81, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the lower limit comprises a stop arranged inside the tubular element at the bottom thereof.

83. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 81, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the top closure comprises resilient snap-fit lips.

84. (canceled)

85. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the arms and pins are arranged at least partially in accordance with a sine wave-like pattern in the peripheral direction of the tubular element.

86. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 85, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sine wave path has a length of three sine periods together spanning the periphery of the tubular element.

87. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tubular

element is a sine-wave-shaped ring or sine-wave-shaped cylindrical element with three sine wave periods.

88. (currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the arms provided with pins are bendable against a resilient force from ~~an initial~~ the fixing position into the insertion position and are fixable in said insertion position in such a way that the fixing can be automatically released in order to cause the arms provided with pins to bend back toward the fixing position under the influence of the resilient force.

89. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least part of the external surface of the tubular element is concave.

90. (withdrawn, currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tubular element is provided with two or more rows of arms, provided with pins, running in the peripheral direction.

91-121. (canceled)

122. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 73, wherein the radial passages are slit-shaped and extend in the longitudinal direction of the arms.

123. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 72, wherein the prosthesis fixing device is made of one piece as an integral whole.

124. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 73, wherein the prosthesis fixing device is made from one part as an integral whole.

125. (new) An assembly comprising a valve prosthesis and a prosthesis fixing device, comprising:

a tubular element providing a lumen therethrough and intended to lie, when the prosthesis fixing device is in a fixing position, with an outside in contact with a wall part of the circulatory system and to accommodate said valve prosthesis inside the lumen of said tubular element, the tubular element having pins distributed around a periphery of the tubular element, said pins having pointed ends for penetrating the peripheral wall when the prosthesis fixing device is in the fixing position,

wherein the pointed ends face in radially outward direction of the tubular element, and each pin is arranged on an arm which, via a bend line, is fixed by one end to the tubular element in a manner which permits swinging around said bend line, and

wherein the arms and pins are movable, by swinging about the bend line, from an insertion position, in which they are essentially located inside the lumen of the tubular element, into the fixing position in which at least the pins, viewed in

the radial direction, project from the outside of the tubular element,

the valve prosthesis comprising a cylindrical outer body fitting in the lumen of said tubular element,

wherein each arm extends from said one end to an other end; said other end bearing a said pin pointing in radially outward direction; and said one end being fixed to the tubular element and defining the bend line.

126. (new) The assembly according to claim 125, wherein, in the insertion position and viewed along each arm from the tubular element to the pin carried on said arm, the arm extends obliquely, in radially inwards direction, into the lumen.

127. (new) The assembly according to claim 125, wherein, in the insertion position as well as the fixing position, the pin approximately extends at right angles to the arm bearing said pin.

128. (new) The assembly according to Claim 72, wherein the arms and pins are located within the longitudinal boundaries of the tubular element in the insertion position and in that the tubular element is provided with radial passages, viewed in radial direction of the tubular element, located alongside the pins and arms, such that, on swinging from the insertion position

into the fixing position, the pins emerge through these radial passages and arms are entirely located within these radial passages when in the fixing position.